

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 037536

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CA, ESTC, ETRD, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA TRADE - TOLEDO SCALES

REF: OTTAWA 550

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE, PREPARED FOR USE HERE IN RESPOND-
ING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBJECT REPORTED IN REFTEL, MAY BE
USEFUL TO EMBASSY:

QUOTE

QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE
ITEM APPEARING IN A MONTREAL NEWSPAPER ABOUT THE EXPORT
OF TOLEDO SCALES FROM CANADA TO CUBA?

SUGGESTED RESPONSE: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS ASKED
IN JUNE 1974 BY THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS VIEWS
ON THE APPLICATION MADE BY THE TOLEDO SCALE COMPANY FOR
A LICENSE TO PERMIT ITS CANADIAN SUBSIDIARY TO EXPORT
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AUTOMATIC SCALES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT TO CUBA. AMERICAN

CITIZENS ARE PROHIBITED FROM TRADING WITH CUBA, INCLUDING TRADE THROUGH SUBSIDIARIES OF WHICH THEY ARE DIRECTORS, WITHOUT A TREASURY LICENSE UNDER THE CUBAN ASSETS CONTROL REGULATIONS. IN ADDITION, WHERE THE EXPORT CONTAINS U.S. ORIGIN PARTS OR COMPONENTS, THE EXPORT IS PROHIBITED UNDER COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF A SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION. IN THIS CASE, THE EQUIPMENT HAD A HIGH U.S. CONTENT RANGING TO AS MUCH AS 100 PERCENT FOR SOME OF THE PIECES OF EQUIPMENT. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTORS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS UNABLE TO RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY AND COMMERCE THAT A LICENSE BE ISSUED TO THE TOLEDO COMPANY FOR THE EXPORT TO CUBA.

IF ASKED, WE MAY SAY THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

IF ASKED FURTHER: IF THE CASE WERE TO BE PRESENTED AGAIN AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO STUDY IT.
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